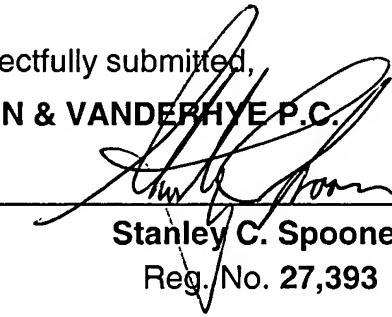


**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, without prejudice. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,  
**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**  
By:   
**Stanley C. Spooner**  
Reg. No. 27,393

**SCS:alb**

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100